Independent Clauses (IC) are the building blocks for interesting and varied sentences. For each of these ICs, underline the subject once, the verb twice.

IC A: Timmy jumped the fence and ran home.

IC B: Chaz sneered at him.

IC C: Chaz and Timmy wandered through the cemetery.

IC D: The falling acorn, striking the headstone, startled Timmy.

Simple Sentence = 1 IC

IC C

Chaz and Timmy wandered through the cemetery.

Compound Sentence = 1 IC + comma + Coordinating Conjunction + 1 IC

IC D , so IC A

The falling acorn, striking the headstone, startled Timmy, so Timmy jumped the fence and ran home.

Complex Sentence = 1 IC + Subordinating Conjunction + 1 IC

IC A because IC B

Timmy jumped the fence and ran home because Chaz sneered at him.

Another Complex Sentence = Subordinating Conjunction + 1 IC, 1 IC

After IC B, IC A

After Chaz sneered at him, Timmy jumped the fence and ran home.

Compound Complex Sentence = 1 IC , Coord Conj + 1 IC + Subord Conj + 1 IC (in any order)

IC D, so IC A after IC B

The falling acorn, striking the headstone, startled Timmy, so Timmy jumped the fence and ran home after Chaz sneered at him.

How do you figure this out on your own?

1. Find & mark all the ICs (underline the subjects once, the verbs twice).
2. Find and circle the Conjunctions that link the ICs.
3. Decide if Conjunctions are Coordinating (FAN BOYS) or Subordinating (ON A WHITE BUS).
4. Select Sentence Type from above.

Voice Lesson: Grammar—Identifying Sentence Types

For each sentence,

1. Find & mark all the ICs (underline the subjects once, the verbs twice).
2. Find and circle the Conjunctions that link the ICs.
3. Write the Sentence Type.

Jack heard a strange noise.

Jack heard a strange noise, and we were scared.

Jack heard a strange noise, and we were scared when he told us about it.

The ice covered the sidewalk, so many of the trick-or-treaters fell.

Thomas and I took the train from Newton to Atchison to take a ghost tour.

We had no idea that Atchison had so many houses haunted by ghosts.

After we screamed and laughed at the haunted house, we drove to Madison’s for hot cider.

Bernice wanted to have a Halloween party, but her mother wouldn’t let her.

Her friend Marilyn asked her if she would help plan a party at Marilyn’s house.

All their friends came, and they all had fantastic costumes.